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16 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Directors, T/SS, O/RR, O/CI, O/CD, O/O, O/SO
 and O/PC

FROM : Director of Training

SUBJECT : Proposed Project for the Preparation of Chinese Language
 Training Material

1. The attached proposal is submitted for your review and consideration. I wish to determine whether Agency needs justify such a project and if so to set it up officially in order that effective language training may be conducted to meet your needs in the field indicated.

2. I should appreciate your reply on these points:

- a. The validity of the project in terms of your requirements.
- b. An estimate of the probable number of your personnel for whom you would want the proposed kind of Chinese language training.
- c. Your concurrence or non-concurrence in this project, or suggested modifications.

3. In order to help you resolve this problem the Office of Training is convening a meeting in Room 1310, "I" Building, on Wednesday, 28 May, at 1000 hours. At this meeting we will answer questions and present an example of the caliber of work produced in this field by the Chinese language scholar under whose direction this project would be conducted. Any questions prior to this meeting should be referred to [REDACTED] Chief, Language Services Division, Office of Training, Extension 8009.

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4. Will you please send a representative to this meeting of 28 May. Your official reply, requested in paragraph 2 above, will be appreciated as near as practicable after this meeting.

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MATTHEW BAIRD

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Attachment - Proposed Project

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PROPOSED PROJECT FOR THE PREPARATION OF CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING MATERIAL

SUMMARY:

The Office of Training is considering support of the cost of research and composition involved in the preparation of special Chinese texts for language instruction at the introductory and intermediate levels. The objective would be to have trainees achieve reading proficiency in the newspaper and periodical fields, with emphasis on the characters required in specialized terminologies. The text material available at present is inadequate to attain this objective and the project cannot be self-sustained. A subsidy of approximately \$15,000 would be required for the preparation of material which would be adequate for the conduct of two years of intensive training and would be suited to a practical objective of definite value to the Agency.

THE PROJECT:

Needs:

It is assumed that for the calculable future a primary source of information or intelligence on China will be derived from the perusal of current newspapers and periodicals published within that country. The effective use of these sources of information will require skill and competence in reading current Chinese texts. The daily and weekly newspapers in Communist China present special difficulties to an American trained in the Chinese language because of the emerging new terminology which they contain and the new topics, primarily in the social sciences, with which they deal.

It has been ascertained that the material now used in universities where the Chinese language is taught comprise the usual literary texts suited to the attainment of reading competence in the literary field. Because of the nature of the Chinese language, which requires the learning of individual symbols for different concepts, students of Chinese who have learned to read on the basis of the training texts now available are not able to handle the literary characters of the current newspaper style.

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Proposal:

It is proposed to contract with the Institute of [REDACTED] to have them undertake the research and composition involved in the production of two series of training texts in Chinese at the Introductory and Intermediate levels. The specific objective of these training texts--competent reading skill at the newspaper and periodical level, with emphasis on the social sciences--would be stipulated. The method of presentation, the approximate total number of characters to be covered, the various fields to be studied, all would be defined in the contract.

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The intermediate reading drills would be prepared to include material containing area data. The texts could be utilized as a basis for development of skill in the spoken language.

This material would become available to the Agency as it is produced and it is expected that the project would be completed in about 30 months.

The contract could stipulate that the manuscripts would be published with the financial support of the University to the extent of \$4,000.

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